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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Masashi MIMA et al.

Serial No.: 10/067,547

Group Art Unit: 1774

Filed: February 7, 2002

Examiner: Merrick L. Dixon

For: STRETCHABLE CONVEYOR BELT  
AND METHOD OF PRODUCING SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS AS  
AUTHORIZATION TO DEBIT  
OR CREDIT FEES TO  
DEP. ACCT. 16-0331  
PARKHURST & WENDEL

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 1, 2003, applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, to prosecute the claims of Group I (claims 1-14) in this application.

However, applicants traverse the restriction requirement since the subject matter of all of claims 1-26 is sufficiently related that a thorough and complete search for the subject matter of the elected claims would necessarily encompass a thorough and complete search for the subject matter of the non-elected claims. Search and examination of the entire application could be made without


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serious burden. See MPEP §803 which clearly states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits." This policy should apply in the present application to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

July 23, 2003  
Date

  
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RWP/mhs

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